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WEDNESDAY
APRIL 14, 1954

David Schoenbrun came to see me this morning. He ran into Bidault at the airport yesterday afternoon at the time of Dulles's arrival. Bidault reproached him for his frequent criticisms of Laniel's good faith, and said he hoped Schoenbrun was now ready to make amends by recognizing the courage of the Prime Minister's action in authorizing the signature of the U.K./EDC Treaty. Schoenbrun remarked he saw nothing exceptional in this performance, since all the other nations had been ready to sign it for weeks.

If Schoenbrun and the other newspaper correspondents knew the truth of what had gone on recently in regard to Indo-China, they would have some allegedly meaty stuff to purvey to their customers. After the French Government asked Dillon to relay a hurried call to the United States requesting intervention by carrier-based American aircraft in the Indo-China war, and the American Government began to show signs of possibly doing something vigorous which might eventually lead to such intervention, the Government-inspired press here (as well as in England) was unanimous in condemning Dulles's rash and dangerous impetuosity. This must make the atmosphere of his conversations today with the French officials rather difficult for him.

I went down to Lanvin and ordered a couple of suits before lunching in our canteen with Ridgway.

This afternoon I called on Guy Mollet at his office near the Place Pigalle in the Cité Malesherbes. This was once the center of the gayest and, in some respects, the most sordid night life of Paris. Perhaps it still is, but this afternoon the quarter appeared tranquil, filled with nursing homes, hospitals, and occasionally a garden. I explained to Mollet that the Secretary would have liked to have seen him but wished me to give him a message conveying his friendly regards and assuring him the American Government had no desire or

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intention to enlarge the conflict in Indo-China. On the contrary, its desire was to get agreement amongst the Western Governments so we could proceed conjointly to exercise pressures of a peaceful character upon the Russians and Chinese to secure, if possible, at Geneva a cessation of all hostilities in the Far East. I then talked to Mollet about the possibility of the Cabinet tomorrow fixing a date for EDC debate and also meeting his desires with respect to the election of members of a European Parliament to exercise democratic control over the Army. On the latter point, he said he had Bidault's promise as well as Bidault's assurance, that Laniel had consented to it. On both this and the date for debate, Mollet said he would not be satisfied until a Cabinet decision had been definitely taken.

Skepticism as to the Government's intentions tomorrow was not relieved by anything one could read in today's French newspapers. Laniel, in rather ambiguous language, appears to have satisfied his URAS Ministers that there will be a preliminary debate on the conditions before the debate on the EDC Treaty itself takes place. If this proves true, and such a procedure were followed, it is obvious that the chances of EDC ever coming to a vote this summer would be almost negligible. We wrote a memorandum on this point, and Ridgway rushed it over to Doug MacArthur in time for him to read it before he accompanied the Secretary to a meeting at five o'clock with Laniel. Ridge brought back a memorandum of MacArthur's private conversation with Laniel last night. MacArthur found Laniel wavering over the question of naming a date for the debate and alleging if he pressed it his Government might fall and all sorts of dire consequences ensue. Doug attacked the Prime Minister with all the weapons in his arsenal, but how effective his presentation may have been still remains to be seen.

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Eden's statement to the House of Commons came [redacted] late this afternoon. It seemed very strong -- amongst other things, he said a British armored division would be placed under European Army command. Normally, this news would be received in France with great enthusiasm but, after so many delays and confusions due to the procrastination of the Laniel Government, the British declaration will probably be attacked by many Frenchmen as being largely insufficient.

Tonight we had Diana Cooper and Nancy for dinner.

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